



2008 Fiscal Report Soil Surveys Program

NRCS provides technical and financial assistance to help agricultural producers and others care for the land. NRCS has six mission goals that include high quality, productive soils; clean and abundant water; healthy plant and animal communities; clean air; an adequate energy supply; and working farms and ranchlands.

Vision

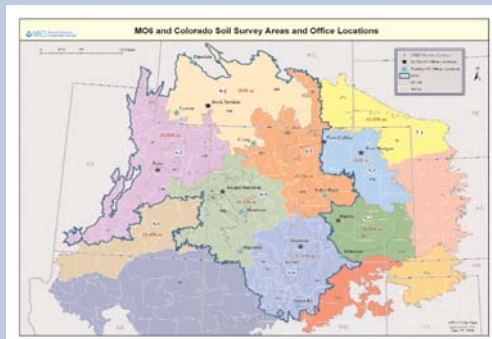
Productive Lands -
Healthy Environment

Mission

Helping People Help the Land

"Careful consideration was taken at both the state and national levels to determine the best placement of the MLRA Soil Survey Offices."

State Soil Scientist



The newly developed MLRA Soil Survey Offices will ignore political boundaries, resulting in a seamless, more consistent inventory of soils coverage.

To view soil survey maps visit
<http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/app/>

The Program

Soil surveys have been an important resource tool for 100 years. At first, soil surveys were conducted to find areas in which to expand agriculture. Today, they are used to plan ways to protect soil and water from erosion, sedimentation, and pollution. Federal, state, and local governments, private individuals, and businesses use soil information for:

- ◆ Agriculture
- ◆ Engineering
- ◆ Transportation
- ◆ Urban development
- ◆ Wetlands
- ◆ Wildlife habitat
- ◆ Farm Bill program eligibility and ranking criteria

Colorado encompasses

- ◆ 66,618,200 acres
- ◆ 63 percent in private ownership
- ◆ 22 percent National Forest
- ◆ 12 percent U.S. Bureau of Land Management
- ◆ The rest is divided between National Parks, Native American, and other Federal land.

Soil Surveys Are Available

- ◆ 99% of the State's privately owned land have soil surveys available in published or in draft form, and
- ◆ 97 percent of the state's Federal land.
- ◆ With the exception of Denver County, it is estimated that digital soil survey information will be available for all private lands by the end of 2010.
- ◆ Approximately 62,000 acres of private land remain to be mapped.

Accomplishments

- ◆ Approximately 650,000 acres were mapped or updated
- ◆ There are 5 established MLRA Soil Survey Offices in Colorado:
 - Grand Junction
 - Ft. Collins
 - Alamosa
 - Ft. Morgan
 - Pueblo
- ◆ Field activities are on-going in the following areas: Estes Park, Morgan, Mesa, Routt, Ridgway, and Park.